



Shanghai

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HISTORY



Shanghai, China, has grown from a fishing village to a bustling metropolis. Its coastal location led it to become a port during the rule of the Eastern Jin and Tang dynasties. The Southern Song Dynasty elevated Shanghai from village to market town in 1074. It was named a city in 1291, thanks to the Yuan rulers. Shanghai's original name was Hudu, derived from the word that describes wooden fish traps.

Shanghai's economy boomed in the 18th and 19th centuries as Europe recognized it as a prime port city. Silk, cotton, and fertilizer were exported during this time. The city blossomed as a financial hub in the 1930s, becoming home to trading and banking companies from around the world. The economy suffered in the late 1940s when Communists took control of Shanghai and its financial institutions. This led to foreigners leaving the city, which negatively affected Shanghai's impact on the global economy. That reversed under the leadership of Deng Xiaoping, leader of the People's Republic of China from 1978 to 1992.



諸大新主
趙益順書



小同年漢



MONEY

Currency

Renminbi is the official currency of China and its basic unit is the Yuan. One Chinese Yuan is equal to 0.14 United States dollars. Credit cards are welcomed in Shanghai at hotels and tourist shops, and ATMs are prevalent. Most of the hotels will exchange cash and traveler's checks, as does the Bank of China.

Before you head to Shanghai, talk to your bank or credit card company to determine whether you will incur a fee using your card there, and let your bank know you will be traveling there so your purchases won't be flagged.



HELPFUL INFO



Climate

The weather is humid and subtropical, and the city sees rain for about a third of the year. So bring an umbrella! The fall is the best time of year to visit because the weather is cooler and dry. Summers are hot and wet, while winters are cold and wet.

Electricity

China uses 220-volts. You will likely need a voltage converter for your electronics. Dual and three-pointed prongs are the most common plugs.

Technology & Communication

Shanghai offers free public wifi in most of its hotels, libraries, and cafes. But while the Internet is available throughout China, some sites such as Google and Facebook are blocked. You will need a VPN for access. Free and paid subscriptions are available.

If you want to use your cell phone in China, it must be unlocked and have the international GSM bands so you can use a local SIM card.



Infrastructure & Transport

Shanghai Metro is the cheapest and easiest way to see Shanghai, and taxis are another inexpensive option, although the drivers don't typically speak English. While the bus system is extensive, that means of travel is not recommended for foreigners who don't have a good grasp of the Chinese language. On the Shanghai Metro, signs and announcements are in English.

Shanghai's taxis are plentiful, colorful, and convenient. But you should know a few things about the taxi service. They are hard to find during rush hour and on rainy days. Most of the drivers speak limited English. Drivers also do not accept tips. You should also keep your receipt after paying. The receipt includes information about the taxi that will help you locate it if you leave your belongings in it.

You can access all public transportation by using the Shanghai Public Transportation Card.

In Case Of An Emergency

Dial 120 for the ambulance, 110 for police, and 119 for the fire department. The police number for traffic accidents is 122. Tourists can get the weather forecast by dialing 12121. The city's tourism hotline is 962020.

Also, Shanghai is one of the best places to be in China if you have a medical issue due to its number of Western hospitals.



Getting There

The city has two international airports. There are direct flights to Shanghai from the United Kingdom and the United States. Avoid traveling during Chinese public holidays because you will pay more. And China has a modern and reliable railway system for intercity travel.

LGBT Travel

Shanghai has hosted an annual LGBT pride event, Shanghai Pride, since 2009. The city has a branch of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). The city has also seen an increase in bars and other businesses that cater to the gay community.

Language

The language spoken in Shanghai is Shanghainese, which is a dialect of Wu Chinese. The English language is not widely spoken in the city.

Religion

The religions are varied and include Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism, Islam, and Christianity.

Driving

Tourists cannot drive in China because the country only allows foreigners with valid residence permits to apply for a license in the country.



功德主

南无

THE EXPERIENCE



Culture

Shanghai is China's largest city. It is a bustling, modern business city with Old City charm featuring street food, antiques, and architecture. The city offers fun and exciting activities for everyone, from its arts scene to theme parks, river cruises, and sightseeing in the Bund Sightseeing Tunnel. Take a boat tour along the Huangpu River and enjoy the museums in People's Square.



Bucket List

Top of Shanghai Observatory

Yu Garden

Shanghai Museum

Huangpu River Cruise

Shanghai Disneyland

Chongming Island

Yuyuan Market

Family Travel Highlights

See the Shanghai Acrobatic Troupe at the Shanghai
Center Theater

Visit the top of the Oriental Pearl TV Tower

Shanghai Ocean Aquarium

Shanghai Science and Technology Museum



Tourism Authority

Shanghai Municipal Administration of Culture and Tourism

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Foods To Try

Classic Xiaolongbao (soup dumplings)

Smoked fish slices (if you like spicy food)

Beggar's Chicken

Peking Duck



Drinks To Try

Pearl Milk Tea

Chivas mixed with green tea

Jiuniang



Photography Hot Spots

The Bund

Waibaidu Bridge

Park Hyatt at Shanghai World Financial Center

VUE Bar

Souvenirs To Bring Home

Shanghai Silk

Paper Fans

Dried Fruits

Jade



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